



Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare
Partners: Amtrak, Caltrans Division of Rail, BNSF Railway Company, Union Pacific Railroad

REPRESENTING COUNTIES ALONG THE SAN JOAQUIN RAIL CORRIDOR

San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee (SJVRC) Quarterly Meeting
State of California (DGS) Building
2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 1036
Fresno, CA 93721-2229
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 29, 2013

- I. **Call To Order** SJVRC Chairman Supervisor David Rogers called the meeting to order at 11:35am.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chairman Supervisor David Rogers.

Welcoming Remarks by Supervisor Andreas Borgeas, Fresno County.

Roll Call by Mr. Angelo Lamas, Merced County.

Present: Howard Abelson, Contra Costa County, Supervisor Andreas Borgeas, Fresno County, Tom Bailey, Fresno County, Clark Thompson, Fresno County, Mayor Harvey Hall, Kern County, Robert “Bob” Snoddy, Kern County, Hank Fung, Los Angeles County, Bruce Heard, Los Angeles County, SJVRC Chairman David Rogers, Madera County, Dylan Stone, Madera County, Angelo Lamas, Merced County, Brian Schmidt, San Joaquin County, Matt Machado, Stanislaus County, and Terry Withrow, Stanislaus County.

Absent: Art Lloyd, SJVRC Facilitator, Thomas Blalock, Alameda County, Michael Snyder, Alameda County, Supervisor Federal Glover, Contra Costa County, Supervisor Mary Piepho, Contra Costa County, Supervisor Mick Gleason, Kern County, Supervisor Zack Scrivner, Kern County, Supervisor Richard Valle, Kings County, Supervisor Tony Barba, Kings County, Supervisor Michael Antonovich, Los Angeles County, Supervisor Max Rodriguez, Madera County, Supervisor Lee Stetson, Mariposa County, Supervisor Hubert “Hub” Walsh, Merced County, Council Member Sarah Johnson, Sacramento County, Ed Coviello, Sacramento County, Mayor Gary Davis, Sacramento County, Supervisor Leroy Ornellas, San Joaquin County, Supervisor Ken Vogel, San Joaquin County, Stacey Mortensen, San Joaquin County, Supervisor Jim DeMartini, Stanislaus County, Supervisor Mike Ennis, Tulare County, Ty Holscher, Tulare County, and Supervisor Phillip Cox, Tulare County.

Introduction by Chairman Rogers; - Quorum Obtained

II. **Action Items**

- A. Vote on August 29, 2013 minutes: Vote – Yes, Motion Unanimously approved by the committee.
- B. Vote for new Chairman to replace Chairman Vito Chisea: Vote – Yes for new Chairman Supervisor David Rogers, Motion Unanimously approved by the committee.
- C. Vote for new replacement of four SJVRC members: Vote – No, Discussion for next meeting.

The four remaining openings will be appointed by each county. Caltrans will send out reminders to those counties who need replacements. Replacements are for Supervisor Thomas Blalock of Alameda County, Supervisor Federal Glover, Supervisor John Pedrozo, Merced County, Supervisor Doug Verboon, Kings County.

- D. Vote for new Vice-Chair to replace David Rogers: Vote – Yes for new Vice-Chair Mayor Harvey Hall, Motion Unanimously approved by the committee.

III. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items Only** by Chairman Rogers

Public participant: None

IV. **Discussion Items** by SJVRC Chairman, Supervisor David Rogers

- A. **Future Meeting Location:** Vote – Yes to alternate between Sacramento and Fresno; Motion Unanimous approved by the committee.
- B. **Parking Garage at Amtrak Bakersfield:** Vice-Chair Harvey Hall presented to the committee the proposal of a new Parking Structure for Amtrak passengers. The City of Bakersfield was awarded \$2.8 million to build a parking structure for additional 85 more parking spaces. Mr. Hall would like to increase the parking to 150 stalls, but the project needs an additional \$1 million and is asking for funding from Caltrans.

Mr. Arnold Ramming, City of Bakersfield Civil Engineer discuss the project needs additional funding to acquire four parcels South of Truxton Avenue. These four parcels will improve accessibility, and provide an additional 150 new stalls.

Mr. William Bronte, discuss the State Capital Outlay process is slow for funding, but opportunity to swap funds with other agencies is possible. He is requesting a letter and proposal from the City of Bakersfield.

Mr. Hank Fung, recommends the Committee to put together a letter of support.

Vote – Yes to provide a letter of support from the Committee for the parking structure and to seek for additional funding from Caltrans; Motion Unanimously approved by committee.

V. **Reports**

- A. Mr. William D. Bronte, State Updates: State budget passed on time. Division of Rail's budget funding was approved, includes the total funding for federal fiscal year 2014 for operating costs. Amtrak will not be responsible for any intercity rail operating costs in California in 2014 because of PRIIA 209. The State is responsible for an extra \$18 million in 2014 and more in future years.

Caltrans is the multi-state lead agency for the federal grant acquisition of new passenger rail cars. California will get 42-rail cars from the 130-rail acquisition. California has a match of \$42 million and the federal grant is \$186 million. Sumitomo was awarded the contract to construct the rail cars. The first test cars should be expected by 2015, all the funds need to be spend by 2016.

California expects six locomotives, and Illinois is the multi-lead agency in the locomotives procurement. The locomotives will be Tier-4 and air quality compliant.

The Comet cars single level equipment is fully rehabed with super-liner seats and Wi-Fi. The test run happened on August 1st, which had a few problems and adjustments to be made. The cars have some issues with the ADA access and manual lifts, but overall the cars are an improvement for capacity and revenue. The cars will be a single consist. Total of 14 cars will be delivered, both consists by next year.

The State Rail Capital outlay has \$34 million worth of projects; Port Chicago to Oakley \$26 million project for a 3.1 mile double track project, and the Stockton to Escalon project for \$8 million for track sidings. In May 2013 the Merced to Le Grand project was approved for \$41 million of 1A funding for 8 miles of double track work. Caltrans applied for a TIGER federal

grant for the Merced to Le Grand project to extend more double track work in the amount of \$40 million. The federal TIGER grants will be awarded in the winter.

State Rail plan completed and approved by the FRA. Currently, the governor's office is reviewing the document. SB 528 revises the planning process to be consistent like the federal government requires for every 5-year rail plan.

The capital projects for the 2014 STIP is being updated, and we expect \$26 million funding for the next two years.

- B. Anthony Chapa (Amtrak Operations), presented ridership numbers. (Numbers to be posted on SJVRC website.) Surpass the 1 millionth rider in July, one month earlier than last year.

Customer Service Points: CSI; 90% for month of June.

Chairman Withrow asked about 1st class service on the San Joaquin Corridor. Mr. Chapa said that Amtrak is limited with the services they can provide. Mr. Bronte responded that the State has limited equipment and can't accommodate 1st class or business services on the San Joaquin's at this point.

Mr. Chapa announced a new food vendor has been chosen by the name of Gourmet Foods to serve all three corridors, they have their food distribution in the Bay Area and Los Angeles area to start in September 2013. Package is different and easier to manage for the LSA.

- C. Mr. George Luchs, Amtrak, shared the OTP for at April 55.8%, May 67.5% and June 60.2 %. The OTP's numbers are low due to BSNF tie replacements, increase trespassers, late buses. Working with the host railroad to improve OTP, working closely with the train terminals, working on more efficiency in loading, Amtrak is making efforts to improve OTP at 90 % or higher.

Chairman Withrow asked the question what is considered late. Mr. Luchs mention Amtrak parameters define late more than 15-minutes from the start of the trip to the end of the trip. Committee wants more details and breakdown of late train reporting.

- D. Mr. Rick Peterson, Director of Bus Operations for Amtrak: next schedule change proposed in January 13, 2014, includes general time tables updates. The San Joaquin will stay the same for operations, no expected changes. But, we expect more reliability between Los Angeles to Bakersfield by adjusting times for the buses to leave 5-10 minutes early on both directions to improve On Time Performance. We plan to relocate to the Long Beach transit mall in the near future and move the Buellton bus stop. The bus stop to South Las Vegas has been on hold, waiting for free bus access.

E-ticket program has been included with ACE trains that connect to the San Joaquin's in July. The E-ticket program with YARTS has had some operational issues, with no e-ticket connectivity and large amount of drivers needed to be trained by October. E-ticket has been a huge success, it provides easy to book/travel and quick access on smart phones.

Mr. Peterson spoke on the topic of Google transit that lists train schedules but not bus connections. Caltrans and Amtrak will be funding the project to create files for the bus routes to part of Google transit in November. The benefit and goals of Google transit is to provide better mobility and connectivity to our 130 destinations. Amtrak has five new procurement contracts with existing routes, working out the details with bus companies to move forward. The five routes are Fullerton to Palm Springs/Indio, Santa Barbara to Bakersfield, Santa Maria/San Luis Obispo to Hanford, San Jose to Stockton, and San Francisco to Stockton. Existing bus fleet is

operating with 5-10 years old buses. The new procurement will consist of 2013 buses that provide Wi-Fi, electric outlets, tables, seats arrange to pair, and seatbelts. The new procurement will provide Statewide continuity and 50 % of buses will have the new standards. We expect within the next 3-4 years all the bus fleet will have the new standards.

Mr. Angelo Lamas asked if the new buses are for purchase or lease.

Mr. Peterson: mentions that Amtrak is the rail operator and the primary method is to contract, but to provide competitive services and complete delivery. We expect to contract with a bus company with a turn-key contract. Amtrak works daily with the bus companies to oversee their operations, all the buses are 45-foot buses and are within FTA compliance.

VI. Reports

A. Remarks; Chairman David Rogers: Next meeting in Sacramento, December 5, 2013.

B. Remarks; Brian Schmidt ACE: Next San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority meeting is September 27, 2014 in Modesto.

Mr. Hank Fung is requesting updates on the SJJPA for the next SJVRC meeting.

Vice-Chair Hall is asking what the role of the SJVRC to the SJJPA, the role will be an advisory committee to the SJJPA. The SJVRC is requesting a short-workshop with the SJJPA.

VII. Adjournment at 2:55pm

VIII. Action Items for next meeting

A. City of Bakersfield will get a SJVRC support letter for the Parking Garage at Amtrak Bakersfield.

B. George Luchs of Amtrak will provide more OTP details and breakdown of late train reporting.

C. Brian Schmidt of ACE will provide a status report on the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority.